

## Grade 7 English Worksheet

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### Assessment Task: Poetry, reflecting on different poems

Read this selection of poetry for teenagers by teenagers, and reflect upon each poem by filling in the comparative table.

#### Poem 1

#### **Mix and Match**

So what if your eyes are chocolate  
and mine minty green  
The combination makes a mint crisp, what a lovely scene.  
So what if your hair is frizzy and mine just plain straight,  
The combination makes beautiful waves, it's just the perfect fate.  
So what if your skin is Bourneville dark  
and mine a wedding gown,  
After all, admit it, we're different shades of brown.

*Annemie Kouwenhoven*

*Waterford Kamhlamba College*

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### Poem 3

#### **Maths Class**

I used to hate Maths class  
so much that I named it torture class.  
I just could not stand it,  
a minute in there gave me a headache  
the size of Jupiter.

I thought I needed professional help  
and so I sought it:  
a doctor, a psychiatrist –  
not even a brain surgeon could help.

The answer came to me one day.  
I had just sat down in Maths class  
when it presented itself;  
the most beautiful girl, or should I say  
lady, walked into the class.  
For a moment, I thought it was  
just another dream.  
But no,  
it was really happening.  
I was in love.  
I immediately sat up,  
jaw dropped and eyes as wide as soccer balls.  
I felt a tremble rushing down my spine  
as my eyes followed her to her seat.  
That moment, that day, was all it took  
To make Maths my favourite subject.  
This miracle occurred because of her,  
because of that beautiful lady  
who was my new Maths teacher.

*Raymond Moleli*  
*Riverside High School*

### Poem 2

#### **Orphans** (street kids)

No one talks to me  
No one shares love with me  
No one cares for me  
I'm just alone.

A lost sheep in the black forest  
I'm alone  
No one loves me  
I'm doing wrong things.

Everybody is against me  
Oh! I'm one. I'm a snake  
A useless rusty tin on the street  
Sleeping under the bridge with no protection.

Oh! I am a desert flower.

*Belinda Tati*  
*Hulwazi Secondary School*

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### Poem 4

#### **Mommy's girl**

Smile, sweetheart.  
Do not frown.  
Keep your head up,  
you're beautiful.  
Walk straight,  
you're not a junkie.  
Greet people in the street,  
someday you'll need them.  
Do the best in your schoolwork  
you can do even better.  
Practise your sports even harder,  
you can win them all,  
because you're the best.  
Get all the friends you can,  
without them you are nothing.  
Never wear too much out-of-line clothing,  
people may talk.  
And darling do not bite your nails,  
one day you'll regret it.  
Please just clean your room,  
how can you live in such a mess?  
Can't you eat less?  
You will get fat and can  
forget to ever have a boyfriend.  
Can't you talk slower?  
Or even just laugh a tone lower?  
Can't you change?  
Or become a lady?  
Can't you just listen and fulfil  
your purpose?  
Can't you become more honourable?  
Beautiful?  
Nice?  
Acceptable?  
More like  
Me?

*Lize Roelofse  
Montana High School*

### Poem 5

#### **A day in the life of me**

Have you cleaned your room today?  
Tomorrow the queen comes to visit  
No, she doesn't want tea in the living room,  
she wants to sleep in your neat bed.

No, you can't have posters on your wall,  
because when I come in here once a week  
I like to see the black stains on the paint.

Eat all of your carrots,  
I know you already have glasses,  
but it's cold outside, I'm cold so  
put on a jersey, no not that one,  
there's a stain inside the bottom of the sleeve.

Do the dishes now, no, not in two minutes,  
the queen might come early,  
what would she think if she saw these dishes?  
She may even think we eat food.

Where are you going now? With who?  
I want you in bed by 10:30  
The holidays end in three weeks  
and you mustn't be tired for school.

You're seven and a half minutes late.  
where have you been? Next time,  
skip the red robots and get dropped off first.  
The traffic couldn't be that bad,  
overpopulation only happens in the day.  
Before you go to bed,  
I want to remind you for the 253<sup>rd</sup> time  
(but I don't want to nag)  
that you must cut the grass at 8:00 tomorrow.  
No, not after lunch,  
imagine what the neighbours will think  
of our long grass, especially when we all know  
that they check the length every day.  
When I was your age, I only got paid one cent a week  
So what if it's worth R100 nowadays!

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Poem 6

**news consumption**

beaten into third place by a  
presidential photo call and a  
pop star's marriage.

"scenes that some may find  
disturbing"  
warns the newscaster.

While I consume another meal  
They bury another child.

They weep.  
I chew.

*Tim Beaumont*

Goodnight difficult teenager.

*Jeffrey Clements*  
*SA College High School*

### Activity 1: Reading

Form into groups. Each person in the group reads his/her choice of poem aloud to the group.

Assess your own reading and give yourself a mark out of 5:

- 1: Not achieved
- 2: Can improve
- 3: Satisfactory
- 4: Good
- 5: Excellent

What is your mark out of 5? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Activity 2: Comparative table

Complete the following table to compare the various poems.

	Poem 1	Poem 2	Poem 3	Poem 4	Poem 5	Poem 6
Identify the poet						
Give the main idea/topic of each poem						
Identify two positive facts in each poem						
Identify two negative facts in each poem						
Provide an example of the figure of speech given	Metaphor	Metaphor	Simile	Alliteration	Enjambment	Enjambment [30]
Rate each poem from 1 to 6 according to how well you liked it, with 1 being the poem you liked best						

Assess your own work by completing the following checklist.

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### Checklist for assessing outcomes

1. The key message of the poem was identified.
2. We identified the main idea of each poem.
3. Noted how text was organised in each poem.
4. We justified our opinions.
5. We reflected on the writer's point of view in relation to our own values.
6. We listened to each other.
7. Our group was organised – each had a turn.
8. We managed our time well.


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### Suggested Solution.

	Poem 1	Poem 2	Poem 3	Poem 4	Poem 5	Poem 6
<b>Poet</b>	Kouwenhove n	B Tati	R Moleli	L Roelofse	J Clements	T Beaumont
<b>Main idea [2 marks each]</b>	Celebrate our difference.	Nobody cares about street kids.	A boy loved Maths because of a teacher .	Mother putting pressure on her child to be like her.	Teenagers are not difficult, adults are.	We listen to news but do not really care.
<b>Positive points [2 marks each]</b>	Eyes mix and match well. We are all the same.	Realises he does wrong things. Refers to himself as a flower.	He loves Maths. He is in love.	She is beautiful. Not a junkie.	Does not want to nag. 1 cent is worth R100	Hearing news. Eating.
<b>Negative points [2 marks each]</b>	So what? So what?	Alone Nobody cares	Hated Maths. Needed help.	Can't you listen. Can't you eat less.	Can't have posters. Do dishes now not later.	Bury a child. Weep.
<b>Figures of speech [1 mark each]</b>	<b>Metaphor</b> A lost sheep	<b>Metapho r</b> Eyes are chocolate .	<b>Simile</b> Eyes as wide as soccer balls.	<b>Alliteratio n</b> Smile sweethear t	<b>Enjambmen t</b> get fat and can forget	<b>Enjambmen t</b> Next item contains
<b>Rating (in order of preference )</b>	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
<b>Total [30]</b>						

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### Appendix of Assessment Tools

Self-assessment checklist

1. The key message of the poem was identified.
2. We identified the main idea of each poem.
3. Noted how text was organised in each poem.
4. We justified our opinions.
5. We reflected on the writer's point of view in relation to our own values.
6. We listened to each other.
7. Our group was organised – each had a turn.
8. We managed our time well.
